

FINAL



WEARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
December 14, 2009

PRESENT: TOM CLOW, CHAIRMAN; RICHARD W. BUTT, VICE CHAIRMAN; DONNA OSBORNE, SELECTMAN; JAMES DONISON, SELECTMAN

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Naomi Bolton

RECORDING SECRETARY: Cherry Palmisano

GUESTS: Neal Kurk, Jan Snyder, Jon Osborne, Tim Maskiell, Dave Hewey, E.W. Hippler, Bill Tiffany, Scott Dinsmore, Ray Eaton, Julie Bickford, Mike Eldridge, Mark Bluteau, Dan Gorman, Harry Lamb, Diane Lamb

7:10 p.m. Chairman Clow called the meeting to order.

MANIFESTS

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Osborne seconded, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sign Manifest and order the Deputy Treasurer to sign checks dated December 17, 2009. Passed 4-0-0

Accounts payable	\$1,322,292.20	(Includes County Taxes and \$350,000 to Weare School District)
Gross Payrolls	<u>\$47,346.92</u>	(Includes Special Detail, Taxes, Credit Union)
Total	\$1,369,639.12	

MEETING MINUTES

Selectman Osborne clarified an omission in the minutes regarding the purchase of a paint striper for the Highway Department.

Selectman Donison moved, Selectman Osborne seconded to approve the minutes of December 7, 2009 as amended. Passed 4-0-0

DISCUSSION WITH BOARD OF FIREWARDS – Chairman Clow said the purpose of the Board of Selectmen meeting with the Board of Fire Wards (BOFW) is to come to an agreement about what needs to be done for full time rescue coverage.

Mr. Jon Osborne informed the BOS that the BOFW made a unanimous motion to apply for the Safer Grant and include a special warrant article to request a change in the wording on the special revenue fund to allow them to pay for per diem out of that fund. If the Safer Grant passes they will eliminate the second article.

Mr. Hippler said there is a good chance they won't get the grant and they need to have a backup plan.

It was discussed that if the town does not vote for the article, the Town of Weare will be charged \$70,000 per year by surrounding towns for the missed calls. \$100,000 goes into the fund per year. There is currently \$300,000 in the Special Revenue Fund; this fund is used for equipment purchases. If they can pick up the missed calls, \$150,000 will go into the fund per year. It was discussed the town missed 75 EMS calls this year; the town lost a considerable amount of income for these missed calls. They have been told the town will be charged \$1,000 per run to cover our calls next year.

Mr. Osborne said they will be making a presentation at the Deliberative Session and holding coffee houses around town to discuss the need. They are working with surrounding towns as well.

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Mr. Osborne said they will need 4-6 people to cover the 100 hours per week without giving benefits; 5 days a week, 10 hrs per day. This will cost \$87,000 per year and steps will affect the pay scale.

Mr. Osborne said based on 75 calls, \$40,000 will be generated in revenues and this will be very close to being self funded.

Vice Chairman Butt asked if they calculated the savings in their operating budget. Mr. Osborne said if they got medics in their budget, they wouldn't have to use paramedic intercepts. He said hospital protocol states they are required to have a paramedic for any disbursement of pain medicine. If they do not have a paramedic available they need to get one from another town and the Town of Weare is charged for the service. Paramedics vary in steps and some are able to do more for patients.

Vice Chairman Butt said there has to be money in the budget that can be applied to this. He said then you they can indicate even more savings and be closer to self funded. Mr. Dinsmore said the first year would be a learning curve. Vice Chairman Butt said there is a potential for savings.

Chairman Clow commented that they would want the change in the Special Revenue even if the Safer Grant passes so they can utilize it on the third year. Mr. Dinsmore said if they get the grant they would make the adjustment the second year.

Mr. Dinsmore asked the Board if the Safer Grant fails who is going to come up with the \$70,000 they will be charged for mutual aid.

Mr. Osborne said an EMT course will start in January and by May or June they will have more EMTs in line. Mark said the newly certified EMTs would be a help, not a save all because they might not be available during the day.

Mr. Osborne told the BOS that the BOFW made a motion to expend about \$182,000 from the Fire Department Vehicle Replacement Capital Reserve Fund for the ambulance, saving \$30,000 in interest. There is currently \$186,000 in the Capital Reserve Fund. Vice Chairman Butt said they need the padding in that fund to cover the ambulance lease; taking it out will allow them to cover the per diem costs. Chairman Clow said this would reflect a whole year's wages and next year it will only be 6 months; the first year would not have the same impact as subsequent years. Mr. Osborne said if the new ambulance were to pass, they will place \$130,000 per year into the fund and be able to draw out of the fund.

Vice Chairman Butt asked about the engine. Mr. Osborne said they would like to put it on the ballot, but it will be a hard sell, there is no real justification to replace it. He said Mr. Knapp checked the current engine, it needs repairs, but they can get another year out of the truck. Mr. Osborne said their priority is EMS. Mr. Dave Hewey said the engine should be replaced every 20 years and they are now over 30 years. Vice Chairman Butt said given the number of EMS calls vs. fire calls, waiting a year will allow more money to be generated. They do not have enough to purchase the engine, they need to leave a cushion in the fund and they will have a better idea of funds going into the fund next year. Tim Maskiell said he feels if they leave the truck out of the warrant they will have a better chance of getting other things passed. Mr. Hippler said the engine tank leaks, they borrow equipment for the engine and only three out of the 7-8 gauges work. Mr. Osborne said next year it will be a necessity and they will not have a choice and they will have to push the need for the engine.

It was discussed there needs to be information made available to the public that explains that the request for the engine is not on the ballot because the need for full time EMS is more important. Chairman Clow said the package they have now represents no tax impact.

Mr. Osborne said the proposed budget of \$269,700 for next year reflects a \$3,000 increase over this year's budget. The budget does not include \$2,500 for drug and alcohol testing, which is required for anyone with a CDL license or \$4,000 for hepatitis shots to cover 20 people at \$200 per person. Ray Eaton said it does include

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\$6,000 more for paramedic intercepts and \$2,500 for testing of equipment and hoses. Total of the requested budget is \$277,000.

Line 592 Ambulance Billing Service – this line needs to be raised as appropriated and then revenue comes into the General Fund.

Chairman Clow asked if they decided where the money for the part time Fire Chief was going to come from. Mr. Osborne said they have not had any discussion on that yet. He said they will be waiting until after town meeting because the position is already established; they just have to determine how to fund it.

Mr. Osborne said if the Safer Grant passes they will have personnel on line by the summer.

It was discussed there is an increase in fire prevention wages; Ray Eaton gets paid to do the inspections and revenues comes in for this line. Ray Eaton said they are increasing their fees to be in line with what other town's charge. It was discussed that this line depends on the amount of construction in town and is way over budget. Vice Chairman Butt said the fees go into the general fund, so an increase in their budget will still be reflected.

Vice Chairman Butt questioned that they proposed more than they actually spent in the training line. Mr. Dinsmore said since Mark has taken over the position there is a lot more going on. Mark said they have had more training opportunities, more people, and the equipment they use is worn out. Mark said the training equipment needs to be updated. He said that the equipment that mimics what is on the truck is very expensive. Ray Eaton said any amount in this line will be spent shortly because a new mannequin has been purchased. Mark gives CPR training classes monthly, at no cost.

Vice Chairman Butt asked about the custodial wages for the Fire Department. The expense for this line is now coming out of the Government Building budget line. Mr. Hippler asked if the per diem employees, if hired, can clean the station. Vice Chairman Butt said the question will be asked and will need to be addressed as to what these per diem employees will do when they are not out on calls.

Mr. Osborne mentioned the request by the BOS to have the BOFW meet at the Town Office Building so that their meetings could be televised. Mr. Osborne said the BOFW would like to televise the meetings from the Safety Complex. Vice Chairman Butt thinks there is a drop line there and there could possibly be a camera to utilize. Vice Chairman Butt said they will ask the Cable Committee to set it up and if there is an associated expense with the installation the money will come from the Community Access TV Capital Reserve Fund.

Mr. Kurk asked if there are any conditions identified on the Safer Grant from the Federal Government. Chairman Clow said the grant will pay for two full time EMTs for two years and the town would be obligated to pay the third year. Vice Chairman Butt said they have been told they may be able to utilize their current volunteer force; which will decrease the salary line. Mr. Kurk asked if it will preclude reducing the fire budget or cutting personnel. Vice Chairman Butt said it can be used to hire laid off personnel and additional personnel. Mr. Kurk asked if there are any salary increases in the budget besides Ray Eaton. Vice Chairman Butt said in the past there was a personnel policy through the Fire Department that allowed raises. Ray Eaton said there are no wage increases reflected in the budget.

Vice Chairman Butt asked about the likelihood of a petitioned article for the engine. It was discussed that the Board of Fire Wards would not recommend it.

Vice Chairman Butt said whatever is a contractual obligation in their budget needs to be identified.

It was discussed that the lawn care agreement covers most of the cisterns. Mr. Dinsmore said there is a group who test the cisterns every year and report back.

The need to install a guardrail to absorb the pressure of the snow around the fence they just replaced on Pine Hill Road was discussed.

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Vice Chairman Butt asked about taking care of the communication dead spots. Mrs. Bolton said the last two cell towers were just completed.

Chairman Clow said the Trustees, from the Emma Sawyer Fund paid \$2,000 towards landscaping done by Margo McLeod this year. The Trustees will not be funding the landscaping next year. The BOS needs to decide how to fund this if they want the work done. Chairman Clow said there was more work done than the Trustees approved. Mrs. Naomi Bolton said that Ms. McLeod had scaled back her work and did not do the Library area or the Historical Society.

Vice Chairman Butt asked about the structural engineer report from the Library. Mrs. Bolton said the structural engineer just recently reviewed the site and has not yet submitted his report.

Mrs. Bolton said she would like an answer about the Highway Garage building. She said it was not discussed at CIP and if the Board plans to put the request on the warrant she will need to have a bond in place. Chairman Clow said it is up to the Board to decide if they are going to ask for the building this year. He said the Board needs to build the case. Selectman Osborne said it should have been on the table and discussed. The steel structure is estimated to cost \$1.2 million. Vice Chairman Butt said they need a brainstorming session. Chairman Clow said the discussion will be placed on the next agenda. Mrs. Bolton said there are deadlines to hold public hearings for warrant articles.

Mrs. Bolton informed the Board that they came to an agreement on the Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Highway Department and will be ready to put forth the 2 year agreement on the ballot.

Vice Chairman Butt mentioned that the school has three Collective Bargaining Agreements.

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Osborne seconded to enter into non public session @ 8:27 p.m. pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A:3II (a and c). A roll call vote was taken, Vice Chairman Butt – yes; Selectman Osborne – yes; Selectman Donison – yes; Chairman Clow – yes. Passed 4-0-0

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Osborne seconded to come out of non public session @ 8:50 p.m. A roll call vote was taken, Vice Chairman Butt – yes; Selectman Osborne – yes; Selectman Donison – yes; Chairman Clow – yes. Passed 4-0-0

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Butt seconded to seal and restrict the minutes of the nonpublic session. Passed 4-0-0

ADJOURNMENT

A True Record.

Cherry Palmisano, Recording Secretary